



IWA EXTERNAL BULLETIN

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EDITORIAL

This second issue of the External Bulletin contains articles from the last months, and they are again made by compilation of the IS of ZSP-IWA. The crisis escalates and spreads to more countries and the “solution” of the states and capitalists is to dictate the workers to accept what they call “the logic of the market”. Austerity measures and attacks are presented as financial necessities and “laws”.

The bureaucratic, reformist unions, which are dependent on legislative aid and subsidies from the ones who are pursuing the attacks, must either surrender or fight. If they mobilize at all, they are doomed to fail, since they are not built to counter attacks on broad fronts and to rely on their own strength. In this way the reformist unions have become service-institutions and burdens on the back of the workers, not free tools for self-activity and emancipation.

The only true “job-security” we can rely on as workers comes from ourselves, and the solidarity and actions we are able to make, and also this bulletin contains articles of mobilizations, actions and campaigns.

We would especially like to mention the very successful campaign made by our comrades in the Solidarity Federation against Workfare. This campaign has even according to the IS of SF-IWA brought the Employment Minister to state:

"It is a disgrace that anyone should seek to target a company that is trying to help young unemployed people in this way. The people involved in these protests have absolutely no idea of the damage they're doing to the job prospects of the next generation. I'm determined to stand up firmly against these protesters; what they're doing is totally unacceptable."

Justifying austerity measures and attacks by reasons of “the logic of the market” is nothing new and is as old as capitalism.. It was also said at the time of the (re) foundation of the IWA, 90 years ago etc. We enclose an article from the paper “Solidaritet” in 1959, and either in 1922 or today:

The only path to emancipation for us as workers is to take control of our own struggle: A struggle that is directed against and outside the class collaborationist structures, and that through direct action and solidarity confronts and defeats the attacks and the evil that is capitalism!

Oslo, August 5- 2012

IWA-Secretariat

Ninety years ago: IWMA's founding congress twice interrupted by German police

When the syndicalist international, IWMA (now IWA) held its founding congress at the turn of the years 1922-1923, it was against a background of great upheavals. World War I had ended a few years earlier, a war which was immediately followed by widespread revolutionary movements in a number of countries, setting lasting trends in the development of the world.

During the war the social democratic international collapsed, and its affiliated parties threw their internationalism overboard. Under the leadership of especially their Belgian chairman Emilie Vandervelde, they gave active support to the war in the name of their respective countries. The reformist trade union international collapsed at about the same time.

After the end of the war, attempts began to re-build the international organizations. The Communist international was organized at a congress in Moscow in 1919, as a continuation of the so-called Zimmerwald international which has been established already during the war. The trade union international was re-established the same year at a congress in Amsterdam. The social democratic international was formed in 1921 at a congress in Vienna, with the Austrian Friedrich Adler as its prime mover. This organization merged with the social democratic international in 1923.

On communist initiative a congress in Moscow in 1921 founded the so-called Red Trade Union International. This organization made great efforts to get the syndicalists as members, but the syndicalist organizations refused, being unwilling to be involved in a union international led by a political movement, in this case the communists.

During the days 25.12.1922 to 02.01.1923 delegates from 10 countries representing about 2 million organized workers held a congress in Berlin. It was at this congress that the syndicalist international IWMA was founded.

The congress was certainly not able to work undisturbed. Care was needed because some of the delegates had to get there illegally, without the knowledge of the police. The first day of the congress was held in a building in the outskirts of Berlin. The plan was to continue the congress the next day at

another place, but the police were on the trail so the delegates had to be given a secret message to meet at the third place, in Nieder-Schönweide, another area in Berlin. Work went on ok until during the afternoon, when a police patrol suddenly entered the building and wanted to see the delegates' identity papers. The German comrades protested powerfully, and demanded that the police show documentation that they had orders for this action. They had no such orders, so the patrol withdrew, leaving two policemen behind to watch. The congress delegates then crowded out through the door into the street, pushed the policemen aside, and disappeared.

The congress met again the next day, this time near Alexanderplatz in the centre of Berlin, not far from the police headquarters.

In this building the congress proceeded without interruption for some days. But then one day before noon came a new police attack. The whole building was surrounded by policemen carrying rifles and with revolvers and grenades on their belts. They forced their way into the meeting room, where the delegates raised an uproar and protested powerfully. One delegate lacking proper papers jumped out of the window but was caught by the police outside. A Polish delegate lacking papers resisted the police but was knocked down. A French woman delegate then rushed forward and hit the police officer in the face with her clenched fist. She was arrested and transported with some other comrades to the prison in Moabit. Every delegate was thoroughly searched. Among the delegates were Emil Manus who represented Denmark and Norway, and Edvind Lindstam and Frans Severin who represented the SAC. Two other SAC members were also present, not as delegates, but as individual members passing through Berlin on a journey to Paris. They were the later well-known authors Eyvind Johnsson and Viktor Vinde, the latter to later become editor of Stockholmstidningen.

After all this, the police left the meeting alone and the congress continued. It founded the International Working Men's Association IWMA (*since 1974 the International Workers' Association IWA). The Syndicalist International kept going during the Second World War, when the other internationals collapsed, and continues its activity today.

John Andersson

from "Solidaritet" Aug-sept 1959

*Translator's (of NSF-IWA) remarks on the new name IWA in parenthesis.

Major Win for SF-IWA in Fight Against Workfare

The Government in Britain has introduced a programme of savage welfare cuts. The cuts are part of a broad government offensive on worker's living conditions with attacks on a whole range of benefits. The government's programme of cuts is not just about reducing the amount the state spends on welfare, the aim is also to force the unemployed into taking jobs paying lower and lower wages which in turn drags down the wages of all workers.

As part of the cuts programme the Government introduced the so called "Workfare" scheme under which the unemployed are forced to work for free for up to 6 months or face having their benefits stopped with no guarantee of a permanent job at the end. Needless to say companies were quick to take advantage of what amounted to free labour and began taking on an increasing number of people under the Workfare scheme.

The government claimed that the Workfare would help unemployed find permanent jobs but as the number of people driven into working for nothing increased, it soon became clear that this was not happening.

Workers taken on under workfare were not made permanent; rather, once their time under the scheme was finished, companies simply got rid of them and recruited a new set of workers from Workfare. After all why pay workers when you can get them for free!!!

Further it soon became apparent that the Workfare scheme was actually increasing unemployment. Rather than fill new vacancies with paid workers companies began to take on unpaid workers under the Workfare scheme. There is also the concern that employers will begin to make workers redundant and replace them with unpaid workers recruited under Workfare.

Coupled to this is the reality that having a large pool of workers being forced to work for nothing acts as downward pressure on wages as a whole. Fear of being replaced by an unpaid worker puts pressure on workers not to demand a pay rise. This comes at a time when the real value of workers' pay in Britain is declining at a rate not seen since the 1930s depression. It is important to understand then that Workfare affects the whole of the working class not just unemployed.



Since the workfare scheme was first announced there has been a general campaign against Workfare which the Solidarity Federation has supported. But we felt that campaign to a degree lacked direction. There was also the concern that it was too political in the sense that it focused too much on putting pressure on the government to drop Workfare. At the beginning of 2012 the Solidarity Federation decided to launch a more economically orientated campaign that would use the tactic of direct action to confront the companies who were actually making increased profits out of the Workfare scheme. Our strategy was to pick a specific company and then target them with coordinated nationwide pickets, communications blockades etc until they dropped out of the Workfare programme. We would then move onto another company and repeat the process. The hope is that we can force increasing numbers of companies to drop out creating a domino effect that will totally undermine and discredit the government's Workfare scheme.

By having a more focused campaign, directed at one company at a time, based on direct action, the Solidarity Federation hoped to also draw in other groups and individuals.

The first company we decided to target for the campaign against Workfare was a company called Holland and Barrett. This company sells health products and has shops in most towns and cities across Britain. We chose Holland and Barrett because of the extent they planned to make use of the Workfare scheme. At the beginning of 2012 Holland and Barrett had announced that they were to take on 1000 unpaid workers under the Workfare scheme. With a workforce of only around 3,500 people this would have amounted to almost a quarter of their staff on Workfare!!

It was decided to launch the campaign against Workfare as part of the IWA days of action that took place in March earlier this year. The plan was to

leaflet workerson the two days prior to holding a nationwide picket of Holland and Barrett shops on the March 31st. The day of action proved to be a tremendous success with pickets of Holland & Barrett and other companies using the workfare scheme taking place in over 20 town and cities across Britain. The pickets were not only supported by other anarchist but also claimants and anti-cuts groups.

After March 31st the Solidarity Federation kept up the campaign with regular pickets of Holland & Barrett shops. This constant picketing put real pressure on Holland & Barrett, a company that tries to brand itself as "ethical and caring" on the basis that they sell health products. As a result of the campaign the company received numerous complaints about their use of Workfare from angry shoppers with customers regularly bombarding their Twitter and Facebook accounts with complaints.

The sustained pressure eventually proved too much and on July 5th Holland & Barrett declared a u-turn, their official facebook page announcing that: "the people currently undertaking the work experience scheme will be the last to complete the eight week placement. After this time Holland & Barrett will not participate further in that scheme." Holland & Barrett now intends to replace unpaid Workfare jobs with a salaried apprentice scheme.

This announcement is another blow to the government Workfare scheme already under pressure as an increasing number of companies refuses to participate in the scheme for fear of bad publicity. The Solidarity Federation now hopes to build on this success of Holland & Barrett by now moving on to target another company. There has been some discussion about targeting Pizza Hut a company with a nationwide chain of outlets. But when the Solidarity Federation approached the company they responded by stating that they are no longer use the governments workfare scheme, a claim the Solidarity Federation is now investigating.

If it proves true the SF will move on to target another company. In the meantime the Solidarity Federation will continue to support the growing campaign against the Workfare until the scheme is scrapped and companies can no longer treat workers as unpaid slave labour.

Solidarity Federation
www.solfed.org.uk



USI-AIT Declares a General Strike



On June 22, members of the USI-AIT in Italy took part in a general strike called by base unions. Below is its statement, outlining some of its political and social demands.

The USI-AIT, together with its unions in the sectors - USI-Health, USI-Post Office, USI-LEL, USI- Social Cooperatives and USI-IUR - declares a general strike in the public and private sector for the entire day of 22 June 2012, with the exception of the Emilia Romagna region. Given the continuing economic crisis, we demand that the government guarantees all income and services to continue living in dignity, recover resources lost by tax evasion and taxing higher incomes and eliminating wasteful spending such as on the military, spreading the available work, expanding social safety nets to all workers on an ongoing basis.

The general strike is called:

- for the immediate withdrawal and cancellation of the so-called "Fornero Reform" of employment law and pensions;
- against any attempt to put the costs of the crisis only on workers with increasing the retirement age and freezing wages relative to inflation;
- for the renewal of employment contracts blocked by the government;- for strong wage increases unrelated to productivity, and pensions and guaranteed income for all and adequate services;
- for the restoration of the rising income scale;
- for a drastic overall reduction in working hours for equal pay (less work but everyone works);- for the abolition of the outside contract, so that all workers are directly employed by the company;

- cancellation of all prescription charges and free public health for all;
- for the elimination of school and university fees, frees school text books for those with low incomes to ensure public and secular education;
- to ensure public transport (trains and city buses) free of charge for the unemployed and for low income earners;
- to ensure housing for all, especially public housing at fair rents;
- for the elimination of all forms of precarious employment and permanent employment of all temporary and illegally employed workers, because work is an important investment in security;
- for the elimination of military spending and against the logic of the police state; the savings resulting from these unnecessary expenses may be used to create new jobs and provide services such as health and education;
- for the abolition of all anti-strike legislation;
- cancellation of large-scale investments (TAV, Messina Bridge, nuclear power plants, etc.).
- for the regularization (residence permit) of all immigrants and migrants.

The National Secretary USI-AIT
Enrico Moroni

www.usi-ait.org

The CNT calls for general strike on September 26 in Euskadi and Navarre

Politicians of all sorts, who have already become a dominant class, have long sold a voracious and insatiable capitalism to the working class. Successive governments in collusion with the unions have been putting workers at a dead end, and current governments are attacking us ruthlessly and definitely.

Although they have tried to divide us and it is clear that we are not dealing with a problem just affecting the construction or metallurgy industries, or something just affecting the private or the public sector. All workers, absolutely all of us are in this boat they are trying to sink. The so-called economic crisis has affected only workers: 6 million have lost their jobs and those who still have them are losing almost all the rights that had cost so much to achieve.



While the most affected do not sleep because they do not know if they will eat tomorrow, the banks and the state debate whether they should continue to accelerate the rate at which they suck people dry or proceed more peacefully.

In this situation and considering the savage attack that is suffering, the working class has to be forceful. No negotiation is worth it - you have to go out in the streets and don't stop until we do away with the measures which are suffocating us.

Therefore, the National Confederation of Labor, CNT calls all workers to the strike September 26 and to participate in all the demonstrations called.

www.cnt.es



Successful End of Conflict with Bally Wulff

In March 2012, FAU Berlin already announced the end of their conflict with gambling machine manufacturer Bally Wulff by a court settlement. The screen printer who was dismissed and got support

by FAU Berlin, received compensation from the company. The compensation is calculated on his 23 year long seniority. The fired person participated in further training until his official dismissal in June 2012. Another fired colleague, who is not organized in the FAU, also received an offer of compensation.

Thus Bally Wulff's efforts to cheaply remove people who have been working for them for decades, have come to an end. Although further employment has not been achieved, we welcome the company's board decision and insight.

Not really voluntarily

But this has hardly been a decision based on reason. Beginning in October 2011, FAU Berlin started standing at the factory's entrances in Berlin Neukölln and informing the company's staff about the incident. The conflict was brought to a broader public by an national action day in front of Bally Wulff sales stores.

This tarnished their image as a socially committed company. But a good image is necessary for its persistence, particularly in the gambling industry. Everybody is speaking about compulsive gambling and it is a topic intensively discussed in Berlin. In 2011, Berlin, as the first federal state in Germany, introduced a law concerning amusements halls, which restricts the setting up of gambling machines. Manufacturers of gambling machines have reasons to fear sales problems and therefore seek communication with politicians. In such moments, problems with fierce employees are more than embarrassing.

While Bally Wulff presented itself at the international branch exhibition IMA in Düsseldorf in January 2012, celebrating its takeover by the Schmidt group, FAU activists were standing at the entrance spreading leaflets. Roughly at the same time, the company's board failed at the labour court to keep FAU Berlin's mouth shut.

A bigger piece of the cake

The printing section's closure was not a topic in the company's press release. Instead of that, they announced at the IMA that: "Despite cloudy political conditions and a tendentiously unsettled situation inside the branch, Bally Wulff returns to Berlin with a book filled of commissions". This optimistic presentation is just one reason for Bally Wulff's employees to fight for a bigger piece of the cake.

Supported by the company's workers' council, employees have had to accept many compromises since 2008: the number of employees declined, working hours increased without wage adjustment and the number of days off dropped. Additionally,

conditions for new employees worsened and old employment contracts, as in the printing section, have been reduced. In particular women had to face unequal treatment. Women employed in production before 2008 receive lower wages than their male colleagues on average.

Solidarity against division

Companies have to adapt to the market situation. Nowadays you can't sell machines like 30 years ago. The focus on programmable "multigamers" lead to the company's restructuring. Manual production has been substituted by software programming. But this does not have to be done on the backs of the workers. Retraining and further education, demands which have been brought up by FAU Berlin, are possible for workers of all ages.

Employees shouldn't allow divisions between highly qualified white collar workers, who seem to be indispensable, and easily dispensible blue collar workers. Software needs hardware to run on. Bally Wulff makes no difference in that. Workers of both sectors depend on each other so they have to fight a common struggle.

The employment of badly paid temporary workers in production does noticeably divide the staff. The fact that temporary workers aren't directly employed, prevents social contacts to the permanent staff because temporary workers fear to be employed at another place and feel like kind of secondary class workers. If the permanent staff steps up to the temporary workers, this could change things considerably. Although sometimes temporary workers receive full time jobs, there is no in-house adjustment about it.

Level 2

FAU Berlin demonstrated to the employees that worker's interests can be put through. Currently members of the FAU are not allowed to enter the company but this can hardly been maintained. An offer to all directly and indirectly employed workers to organize themselves inside the FAU and to fight for better working conditions has been made. According the principles of the FAU, the workers have to take the reins for themselves because the FAU refuses to represent anyone. For a considerable success, just one employee was necessary, a workplace group could reach much more. So, let's go to level 2!

Building and Technical Section FAU Berlin

This article first appeared in the paper "Direct Action".

Australia: Dominos Drivers Organize after Pay Dispute



Members of ASF Brisbane who are Domino's Pizza drivers had their wages cut by 19% earlier this year. Since then the drivers have been fighting not only Domino's, but the right wing hierarchy of the SDA Union that encompassed Domino's employees, to have their wages reinstated.

The drivers themselves have formed the GTWA (General Transport Workers Association, affiliated with the ASF) as a response to the inaction of the SDA union and are actively coordinating nationally to reinstate their wages.

About the Dispute at Dominos Pizza

The workers of ASF Brisbane have been in an industrial dispute since 9th of April with Domino's Pizza Enterprises (DPE), after ASF members that are employees of the DPE raised the issue of their wages being cut.

The union for Domino's employees in Australia is also one of the largest unions, the SDA (Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association) with a membership of around 230,000 workers. The SDA is 'managed' by a right wing catholic hierarchy led by Joe De Bruyn that is not adverse to using the union to push Christian views.

The ASF Brisbane organised a meeting with Tim Van Schyndel, Domino's Industrial Relations Advisor at the Australian Domino's Head Office demanding the reinstatement of drivers wages. This meeting was unsuccessful.

Following this, ASF-B organised a picket outside the DPE head office, with a very good community response and ASF Melbourne was approached for support. ASF Melbourne unanimously agreed to supporting our members and starts rolling pickets every weekend outside a different Domino's store, with ASF Brisbane following suit.

Below is a list of six key points that must be included in any further negotiations with Dominos. The drivers will not support any agreement without these inclusions.

KEY POINTS FOR NEGOTIATION & DISCUSSION:

- 1 The basic rate of pay must always be at least equivalent to the national safety net minimum wage prescribed by FWA which will include casual loading to casual employees. For an adult driver of 21 years & over this would currently be basic rate of \$15.96 per hour + casual loading of 23 % = \$3.67 giving a minimum wage of \$19.63 per hour.
- 2 That notwithstanding anything else in any agreement, under no circumstances whatsoever will the minimum wage payable by Dominos ever fall below the national prescribed minimum wage by FWA and that all employees engaged on a casual basis shall have the casual loading prescribed by FWA in the minimum wage safety net included in the minimum wage payable to any casual employee.
- 3 Payment of wages at the normal rate of pay (which will include casual loading to casual employees) shall be paid to all employees required to complete any training or attend any meeting whether that training or meeting is held in-store, via the Dominos training website DOTTI or by any other means. Payment of wages will be made for the period of time taken by the employee to complete the training specified by Dominos.
- 4 All tips received by drivers shall remain the sole property of the driver to whom they are given. At no time and under no circumstance will Dominos ever be entitled to any tip money received by any driver.
- 5 All hours worked by any employee regardless of what employment status the employee may hold will be paid for by the employer at the appropriate rate of pay. This will include all hours worked before, during and after any trading hours of any store.
- 6 That Dominos agrees to make good faith progress with the union towards including all casual staff to public holiday rates equivalent in ratio to those entitlements currently received by full-time, and part-time employees to the extent that by 2014, all casual workers including drivers be paid at the rate of double-time for all hours of work performed on public holidays.

The list is seen by drivers as realistic and only requests that the most basic of wage entitlements be payable.

The workers are organising to achieve these goals via the General Transport Workers Association.

Anarcho-Syndicalism is not a Crime!

Comrade Icaro Polleto from COB was fired from his job in a sweatshop, run by FF Mercantil. He was involved in trying to organize there. Workers were demanding a five-hour work week, 8-hour day, air conditioning and ventilation, extra pay for working in hazardous conditions and the right to organize. He was later threatened by pistoleros and finally taken to court for supposedly “slandering” the company. Below is more information about the case which the comrades are fighting and other problems facing workers in the region.

The Brazilian justice system is criminalizing the legitimate claims of workers, dealing with the producers of social wealth like bandits. The incidents which occurred in Araxá, in the State of Minas Gerais, point to the neglect and abandonment which labour issues are dealt with in Brazil. A comrade from the SINDIVÁRIOS union in Araxá was summarily dismissed and made to suffer, being accused and coming under constant pressure, coercion and oppression by the justice system and its agents.

Centuries of protests and direct action ensured the historic achievements of anarcho-syndicalism, keeping alight the struggles and social resistance, affirming the principles of the International throughout Brazil where the Brazilian Workers Confederation COB acts through its sections, the SINDIVÁRIOS unions and its federations. As in the past we keep fighting and the example in Araxá shows that we can not abandon our bases of agreement and anarchosyndicalists strategies of action returning and rebuilding the free workers' organizations despite the policies and intentions of capitalism and its lackeys.

The accusation against the SINDIVÁRIOS Araxá was defamation, related to direct action protests, blockades in local shops and sending e-mails denouncing the exploitation to which the workers are exposed: men and women are condemned to unhealthy and poorly paid work, With the heat of the machines, intoxicated by chemicals mixed with dust resulting from industrial processes and with an exhausting day's work, the conditions are illegal and inhuman, but they have the consent of the Brazilian state when workers organize themselves and attack their oppressors.

The COB-AIT, through direct action, and has sided with the defense of workers' interests in mobilizing international actions that have had a strong impact on FF Mercantil, affecting its image on its consumer market that does not accept their inhuman methods, forcing the employer to retreat. International solidarity has once again demonstrated its strength to interrupt the process of layoffs that affected more than 40 workers of FF



Mercantil, a footwear company. In court we could get the case dismissed, a partial victory, but our actions have not ceased in the region.

Araxá, located in the Triângulo Mineiro, has a strong fascist and repressive presence that uses extreme violence. It is a region where historically the Araxás Indians inhabited the land between the Rio das Velhas (Araguari) and Rio Quebra Anzol, according to reports made in the sixteenth century. The region was home to the Quilombo fortifications that were built by African slaves who fled the coffee plantations and mines abundant with gold and diamonds. The presence of Indians and rebellious slaves constituted an obstacle to the occupation of the lands of the region and they suffered systematic attacks by the Portuguese.

FF Mercantil is part of the Commercial and Industrial Association of Araxá and with the other business sectors articulates policies of exploitation and degradation of work in the region. Currently mining is a major source of economy in Araxá, producing phosphate ores, along with niobium which is produced by the company CBMM Brazilian Company of Metallurgy and Mining boasting the largest mining-industrial complex of niobium in the world.

CBMM is the only producer of niobium with a presence in all market segments with subsidiaries in Europe (CBMM Europe BV - Amsterdam), Asia (CBMM Asia Pte - Singapore) and North America (Reference Metals Company Inc. - Pittsburgh). It generated much of the economy of Araxá. In 2011 a group of Chinese companies agreed to buy 15% of CBMM for \$ 1.95 billion.

Niobium is a raw material for the military industry, high technology, critical for the filaments of the fluorescent lights and have a significant presence on the edge of the technological future that will start. between 2013 and 2016. It can significantly improve the quality of special stainless steels, such as those used in the management of oil or in the circulation of fluids in nuclear facilities, water cooled reactors, for example, a consequence of low neutron capture. It is an essential component in the construction of missile engines and high-performance fighters.

The major goal however is the use of niobium superconducting in building, an application field in which researchers see no limits of new electronic components for high-performance computing systems for magnetic levitation high-speed trains passing through precision designators, in use in the military industry.

It is important to note that the region arouses the interest of international security agencies like the CIA, and the presence of the COB-AIT Araxá guarantees worker defend their interests before this colossal operation of Global Capitalism and both international solidarity and direct action are our weapons against the corporations that attack the air or the ground water, affecting workers' lives both physically and psychologically. So right there we organize and resist.

Delegate from New FORGS Rita-COB/AIT Santa (07/29/2012)

ANARCO-SINDICALISMO, NÃO É CRIME !



REPORT ON FF MERCANTIL

Located in the Industrial District Araxá - Minas Gerais.

The company FF Mercantil is in the footwear industry with close ties to FINTA DO BRASIL, AFNIT SPORT and FILON.

Its production responds to the logic of capitalism of the maximum exploitation and reduction of production costs.

That is to say, the worker is only necessary for today.

Disposable and in an unhealthy environment.

It produces sports shoes, where the situation is obviously wrong, because of the conditions and means used in the manufacturing.

Women working on sewing machines, repetitive stress, the templates are glued with hot glue and without gloves and so on.

Heat and the power of the machines always remain hot.

This is not counting the alogem, a highly toxic industrial solvent.

The sanding, glue and other chemicals create dust.

All this without equipment to remove the dusty air and no ventilation.

How many times have we seen the bosses covered with dust and leather?

Situations are encountered in the production line, always fast, When the line stops, so does the production and thus the profits decrease. So the pressure is constant.

There is no patience with those who are tired.

All this can only be addressed as it has been - through direct action.

The company's union simply does not exist.

What they want to know is the amount of the contribution (labor tax) collected into its coffers.

Thus began the discontent and readiness to organize a proposal.

A list of demands and some strategies were made, as well as the booklet "Fighting Techniques".

We also discussed the issue of overtime pay on holidays.

The part of the transport supplement to be paid by the employee was a very questionable situation.

Among the allegations and claims were for payment of PLR (participation in the profits of the company).

And the right of the workers to minimize their precarious situation.

Always remembering that the orientation of the workers was anarcho-syndicalism.

It started in March 2011 with publicity and searching for new comrades.

In early March we had 12 people attached to the idea and practice.

About 34% of the production line.

The analysis indicated that the strike, which was lacking in the most essential points, would be difficult.

Besides the issue of a strike fund, low wages resulted in increased repression by the foremen and managers.

The relationship was good between workers. The labor situation was precarious.

The strengthening of the relationship took place with this propaganda and compiling a list of demands.

In late March, there was production of about 1,000 pairs a day and systematic pressure and coercion.

The growth of this committee (section) factory on the other hand had caused increased surveillance over its members and prospective members.

The boycott was defined as an effective weapon for the protection of the commission and rapid response.

In a move that was probably intentional, the boss pressed for increased production. This was questioned.

And shortly after the questioning, there is separation of the area, causing the isolation of the other members and firings shortly thereafter.

Reports are being kept. The struggle continues.

However, weakened by the cut in the key points.

The growth of coercion is accompanied by greater mobilization.

Work stoppages, picketing, boycotts and lawsuits against direct action.

The continuation of this case is in the court case against which we fought and we prove that the fight was right.

AGAINST PRECARITY, DIRECT ACTION BY THE UNION!

The Secretary of the Union of Arts Workers and General Membership Branch Araxá / FOM / COB / AIT – IWA.

Araxa December 2011

We Won't Stay Quiet! Bosses threaten ZSP with Suits

The ZSP continues to gather an impressive collection of threats from bosses around Poland whose workers are fighting against cheating, violating their rights and bad working conditions. In the past 2-3 months alone we have received 5 of them.

The owner of CH Oberza and other restaurants in Warsaw threatened to sue us for loss of business after we picketed that restaurant. The picket did not concern working conditions there (although we know they are also not great) but the woman's activity as a real estate speculator who was trying to evict an invalid woman. We blocked the first attempted eviction by direct action with tenants' activists. We decided to go to her place of business. She resigned from the planned eviction. At least for now.

The Director of a hospital in Warsaw threatened us after we published workers' opinions and stories on the internet. About 40 workers nominated her for „worst boss of the year” due to practices such as mobbing. The film of delivering the award has been viewed by thousands on the internet.

The PR department of Empik bookstores, writing as if from the Legal Department, did the same after we also published the workers stories. We have been able to document many instances of forced overtime and violations of health and safety procedures and some suits are being brought against the company.

A famous television producer is also threatening us and searching for ex-employees who have exposed how he systemically cheats people. He even got the police to detain one of his ex-employees. But the pressure is working and he is beginning to make payments.

The HR people at Chung Hong factory demand that the Anarchist Information Center portal pay almost 4000 euros and that a retraction is published claiming that everything said was not true. An article had been published criticizing the fact that Chung Hong fired a union activist who was organizing a strike referendum and then locked out and fired the rest of the unionists. They claim that the only thing they were trying to do was to warn workers about the consequences of violating the law concerning strikes.

Finally, some members of ZSP are also being sued for activity in the tenants movement related to filming a slumlord. They are back in court in the fall fighting for the right to speak out.

Roche Poland Firings Continue

ZSP continues to fight against the outsourcing of IT workers in Roche Poland. The outside agencies are now hiring former contractors of Roche for only a fraction of the salaries.

Our comrade, who was fired from the corporation was trying to regularize his employment status. Roche Poland was denying IT workers employment by claiming that they were entrepreneurs or hiring them through other people. ZSP showed how many benefits workers were losing through this type of scheme and encouraged them to claim what was owed.

Protests were held at a couple of corporate meetings in Warsaw.

On April 19, Roche held an international meeting in Warsaw to announce „restructuring plans” which meant mass firings and outsourcing of about 200 IT jobs in Warsaw and Madrid.

Representatives of the corporation from different countries came to the Hilton Hotel conference center. One member of ZSP went into the conference hall with leaflets denouncing these actions and calling on workers to take mass action against the company. Some IT workers who would be affected were also present. Outside was a picket in a place right below the windows of the conference. With excellent acoustics, this was heard very well.

ZSP offered advice to the workers about to be fired about how to claim benefits that they were denied when they were falsely employed as „entrepreneurs”. It also calls for organization and action.

On May 10, representatives of the Roche headquarters in Basel organized a meeting with Roche Polska. The meeting was held in a cinema in the shopping mall next to the Warsaw office. We were informed of the event so we organized an informational action.

Leaflets were left in the cinema and posted around the shopping mall. Information about Roche practices were handed out also to people in the mall and then posted in the neighbouring area between the mall and Roche offices.

We condemned the practices of the pharmaceutical giant and corporate greed in general, calling for decent working conditions and stable employment in that company. The reaction of the shoppers was better than expected; many took leaflets and some expressed their disapproval or disgust at the corporation's practices.



IT workers are now organizing in a new branch union in Warsaw.

Our comrade who was fired from Roche and is demanding his reinstatement and payment of benefits he was denied as a supposedly self-employed worker will fight the corporate giant in court this fall.

www.zsp.net.pl

Report from Priama akcia, Slovakia

Strike in Dubnica nad Váhom

On April 25th a member of Priama akcia attended a protest meeting of striking workers in a metallurgical company Metalurg Steel in Dubnica nad Váhom. The strike was a reaction to several months of unpaid wages, breaches of the Labour Code, health, safety and hygiene regulations.

When visiting the factory, our member clearly saw that the work in at least two halls was mostly paralyzed. Priama akcia also prepared a solidarity leaflet which was distributed among the workers.

Activist camp in Czech Republic

On June 16th Priama akcia members gave a presentation at an activist camp in Czech Republic. The presentation was divided into three parts: About Priama akcia – who we are and what we do (the most important recent activities); A dispute of our member in his workplace (illegal dismissal and achieving better conditions of the dismissal); Open meetings of Priama akcia – Bratislava. After the presentation there was a two-hour discussion about the problems and involvement in community and workplace struggles.

Solidarity with protesting truck drivers in Germany

As a response to request of FAU, Priama akcia supported the protest of German truck drivers, which took place on the 7th of July in Braunschweig. We prepared a solidarity video statement, in which we expressed our support of the struggle of the truckers and shared our experiences from the protests in the transport sector in Slovakia.

In solidarity with nurses and midwives

Priama akcia supported the protest of nurses and midwives, which took place on July 24th in front of the parliament in Bratislava. We spread solidarity leaflets among the workers and also sent it to the Facebook support page in order to reach as many workers as possible.

The workers were protesting against the decision of the Constitutional Court to suspend the new act guaranteeing them a wage rise, which came into effect in April. First, some employers (both private doctors and hospitals) tried to minimize the effects of the new act by cutting the working hours of the nurses and midwives (while the workload remained the same), by firing them or changing their status from healthcare to administrative workers. In July, the Constitutional Court suspended the act and will be examining its constitutionality. The workers announced more actions, for example a protest in front of the Constitutional Court in September.

www.priamaakcia.sk

CNT denounced the police actions against demonstrations in support of the miners

The CNT publicly denounce the events of July 11 during the mobilization in the morning and evening in support of the miners which resulted in dozens of detainees and many wounded and injured.

Significantly, just as the government approves its cuts, which are becoming by far the bloodiest in the living memory of "democracy", they flaunt excessive force against demonstrators who were in the vicinity of the Ministry of Industry. This massive event, greatly endorsed by militant organizations in the capital, regardless of the direction of the CCOO and UGT which organized the event and was only looking after its image, was turned into a repressive setback by the government.

The belligerent action of the riot police could be noted in a bloody, violent and indiscriminate assault charge against many of the participants, without any apparent logic. In the seriousness of the matter it should be noted that the grassroots people of all unions and social groups showed a camaraderie during the police actions both to support each other and repel the attack.

We criticize the passivity shown by the CCOO and UGT executives, who at all times kept to the side in its media act without having the courage to even make minimal mention of what was happening around.

We are saddened to see how many people in the rank and file of these organizations were being attacked and arrested at the same time with our comrades; miners and families that were present in solidarity and support in the struggle of the miners were treated like dirt and reviled with descriptions that they were bad people, against the system or uncontrolled.

The demobilization level we have reached because of the mainstream union leaders, plus the disregard of these organizations for some of those detained, leaves a desolate landscape. They become in the same way accomplices of those in power with the role they are playing..

The CNT is concerned about the situation of the repressed and will do all that is within its means for solidarity. We ask without much hope that those unions which organized the event, where they marched with their banners only to make a propaganda show, have the decency to assume certain consequences that, even if uncomfortable, are part of the fight. Because if not, the fear that the state infused and the distrust of the working class towards the unions will crush any prospect of mobilization and organization against the devastating system that we are living in.

Then in the afternoon, there was a march from Atocha to Sol, following the demonstrations in support of the miners, the arrests of the morning and the new cuts imposed by the rich on the workers and most disadvantaged social groups. There were also riots and arrests the result of the attack, now exposed, of the government against the working class.

Solidarity with those arrested and repressed...
The struggle is the only way!

Permanent Secretariat of the Confederal Committee of the CNT-AIT

www.cnt.es



Solidarity in Portugal

On July 11th demonstrations in solidarity with the struggle of the miners in Spain took place in Lisbon and Oporto, called by the AIT-SP.

In Lisbon, the demonstration in support of the miners took place in front of the Spanish Consulate, at the same time that a demonstration against the cuts that could lead to the closure of the mines arrived in Madrid.

Hundreds of leaflets were distributed to passersby, who, despite the information blockade seemed knowledgeable about the struggle of the workers and expressed their support.

In Oporto, various groups, including the SOV of the AIT-SP, organized a march from Praça da Batalha to the Spanish Consulate in order to deliver a protest letter.

(Video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjZipKx1PIU)

At both events, the miner's anthem "En el pozo Maria Luisa" was sung and slogans shouted in solidarity.

ait-sp.blogspot.com

Statement of FAU's Annual Congress about Constrictions of the Right to Demonstrate during European Wide Anti-Capitalist Days

Participants of the base union Freie Arbeiterinnen und Arbeiter-Union (FAU-IAA) annual congress reject the authoritarian restrictions by the government and the police during the European wide day of action M31 and the Blockupy action days from May 16 to May 19, 2012 in Frankfurt/M. We do not only condemn the clearing of the Occupy camp in front of the European Central Bank (ECB) by the police but also the principal prohibition of the kick-off meeting and all planned concerts, blockades, discussions, pickets and demonstrations during these four Blockupy days. Neither do we accept the 1430 detentions which took place altogether during the protests in this metropolis.

Concerning these events, we point out the massive police violence and mass detentions on the occasion of the anti-capitalist day of action on March 31, 2012 in Frankfurt/M. More than 200 demonstrators have been kettled for more than nine hours.

We resolutely reject the stirring media coverage in Germany's mass media before the Blockupy days. Police information was adopted uncritically, which resulted in a repressive public climate.

We welcome the resoluteness and circumspection of 25,000 Blockupy demonstrators on May 19, 2012, despite the permanent police provocation. This reassures us for more anti-capitalist resistance in Germany. The following points are not the only relevant arguments for that:

The global capitalist crisis will get worse and its' negative effects will be noticed in Germany more and more. This is why protest and resistances against European crisis policy needs to become more resolute and noticeable in Germany. More and more, the ruling elites choose visible authoritarian methods for their crisis management while they pass its costs on the backs of the working and underprivileged classes. In Spain, members of trade unions, who took part in the general strike from March 29, 2012, get criminalized and members of the Indignados movement are persecuted for being members of a criminal organisation. In Italy, the government mobilized its army to defend public institutions. In Greece, democratic, unionist and workers' rights, which have been gained in long hard struggles, are being cut extremely fast. The abolishment of democratic rights in Frankfurt/M during the Occupy days needs to be seen in this context.

Our struggle can only be successful if we overcome national borders and resist the European wide attack on our rights by a transnationally coordinated resistance. Therefore we will fight on the streets and in the companies for a better life. We can only reach free and equal conditions if we organise our lives by ourselves.

In this sense we refer to the anti-capitalist weeks in Spain from May 29 to June 15, 2012 and to the general elections in Greece, which take place in an extremely unstable social situation on June 17, 2012. Whatever this election will bring - take part in solidarity actions and watch out for announcements.

Further more we should begin to discuss the possibility of a European general strike.

May 25 to 28, Roßdorf (Hessen),

Annual congress of the Freie Arbeiterinnen- und Arbeiter-Union (FAU-IAA)

The Education Sector of Salamanca on Strike



The strike began with pickets in two central libraries. At 11.30 (on May 21) thirty comrades and supporters of the union went in front of the "Santa María de los Ángeles" y "Abraham Zacut" libraries to inform the workers and students of the call for a strike in the education sector starting at midnight. After starting the day, slogans were chanted in favor of the strike in front of the libraries. Numerous students left the building.

At 1.15 the picket entered the library for about 30 minutes and continued chanting slogans. Several National Police patrols entered the building to throw out the protesters. Once in the street, and making sure that no comrades were separated from the group, the picket finished. There were no workers in the building and the services were being covered by the security personnel who were not included in the strike call.

The first hours of the morning were used for informational picketing at nine secondary schools in the capital. From before 08:00 until after 08:30, near forty comrades conducted informational pickets at several secondary schools. Concretely there were pickets at the "Venancio Blanco", "Garcia Bernalt", "Fernando de Rojas", "Torres Villarroel", "Rio Tormes", "Rodriguez Fabrés", "Fray Luis de Leon", "Lucia Medrano" and "Mateo Hernandez" schools. The comrades who were picketing the "Venancio Blanco" and the "Garcia Bernalt" schools reported that a significant number of teachers chose to endorse the strike. Similarly, support for the strike by the students was remarkable, highlighting, according to the comrades, that most students who would attend school would do so only because scab teachers had scheduled exams for them. The comrades encouraged workers to join the strike and go to the event called at 12:00 noon in the Plaza Mayor.

After the pickets in the schools, different faculties at the Unamuno campus were picketed. The CNT-AIT has seen no evidence that any of the mainstream unions calling the strike (CCOO, UGT, STE, ANPE and CSI-F) made any pickets at any workplace. From about 10 in the morning, a protest of more than 70

people, belonging to or supporters of the CNT-AIT and CEA, informed workers and all the students of the University of the call to strike throughout the education sector. The protest went to the Law School, FES Building, the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Pharmacy. Security personnel prevented the protests to enter the Library and also tried to prevent access to the medical school. In this same university one of the janitors attempted to assault a comrade, grabbing him by the chest. In the Department of Medicine, the comrades tell us that all students from two classes left the classrooms when the picket entered. Overall, the protestors found very few classes with students, so the University also supported the strike. We also collected information about the pickets in the Institutes. In most the attendance of teachers was between 5 and 15, some of these has a staff of about 80 teachers. For the figures we got, the strike was quite positive.

Upon completion of the pickets on Unamuno Campus and the School of Geography and History, a mass demonstration organized by CNT-AIT began. Over 5000 people supported the CNT-AIT call to oppose cuts in education. A massive demonstration marched through the city center. From 11:00 until 11:45 pickets continued in the college. They were at the Faculties of Biology, Nursing and Geography and History. There were no incidents. At 11.50 the pickets were directed to the Plaza Mayor where the comrades from the union were with banners. At the head of the demonstration was a banner reading "No to cuts" and the CNT-AIT block under the slogan "It's not time to mourn, it's time to organize". Behind it a banner of the Union Section of the Usal that encouraged workers to organize. The event, supported by CEA, ended with the speeches of a student comrade from the University of Salamanca and a temporary worker in secondary education. After the two speeches of the comrades from the CNT-AIT, speeches were made on the open mic by CEA, Marea Verde and two young individuals.

After the demonstration organized by CNT-AIT, 70 people occupied the Provincial Department of Education. The occupiers demanded that the Director come down to talk with them. After just under two hours, and once the Director came down, the occupants left the building. They managed to get the Director to sign a letter to be submitted to the Delegation of Castile and Leon, which explains that the students and education workers are totally against the Royal Decree - Law 14/2012. In the same letter the Director took on the commitment that none of the occupants would be identified by the National Police surrounding the building.

At the end of day, at 8PM was the demonstration, called by the trade unions that had organized the strike (CCOO, UGT, CSI-F, ETS and ANPE). The demonstration, called by union organizers of the strike in education (CCOO, UGT, CSI-F, ANPE and STE) and supported by various organizations and political parties, went through the Gran Vía. The CNT-AIT block, backed by more than 300 people, marched at the end of the demonstration. All the uncertainties that the route of this rally had generated in the last hours, materialized in disastrous organization by the organizers. The rally started from the central government representatives and went to the roundabout at the end of the Gran Vía, at the junction with Juan de la Fuente St. Having reached this roundabout, the head of the demonstration, led by the Secretary Generals of the union organizers, turned around and went the other way, through the demonstration itself. The block of the CNT-AIT, which was completely unaware of the route, decided to step aside to make a for the head of the demonstration to pass. When they reached our block, we started to chant slogans against the hierarchical structures in unions, for demonstrations in the street and from the rank and file. We asked the union leaders and union officials where they were in the morning when we were picketing in Secondary Schools and the University. We also criticized the unions for mobilizing demonstrations in the evening of a one-day strike. Once all the demo passed, possibly after about 30 minutes of waiting, the anarcho-syndicalist block went to the end of the demonstration and after advancing a little over a hundred meters, we stopped so a comrade could speak briefly to a and thanked everything for the support received and briefly reminded people what this decree will mean for the education workers and the students and encouraged everyone to attend the event which the CNT-AIT called for the 27th at 12:00 in the main square to protest against all social cuts, against the labor reform and against the Employment Agreement.

The CNT takes firm steps against dismissals in Spanair

The CNT has initiated the appropriate legal formalities concerning the transfer of workers negatively affected by the bankruptcy of Spanair. The fraud in Spanair destroyed thousands of jobs directly and indirectly and the "social partners" involved in the management of the redundancy plan were quick to close the process with as little scandal



as possible to avoid having any political implications with this case. (On the board are important Catalan businessmen with links to the CiU and PSC.) Faced with such nonsense, the CNT has acted not only against British Airways but also against companies who wanted to cash in without assuming the appropriate responsibilities.

Vueling, Ryanair and UTE Groundforce have taken over a range of services that Spanair vacated at several airports without transferring a single job. They instead have sought to use this occasion to try to "fish for" workers of Spanair, offering truly medieval working conditions, taking advantage of the atmosphere of panic and people in need. In the current context of crisis, the CNT does not think enough effort has been made to ensure that those workers who wished to continue working could keep their jobs and has activating a resource that was unexplored at the negotiating table (from which CNT was excluded ...) Thus the CNT, through its Technical Office, has decided to go alone on a path considered much more worthy and thus has opened several legal avenues to force compliance with the Collective Convention in the industry, which it now seems that no one wants to agree to, and to force the companies to take on the staff of Spanair routes in proportion to the business absorbed as a result of bankruptcy.

At the moment it is necessary for the whole working class to develop strategies and tools necessary for the protection and defense of jobs. And so the CNT offers workers their resources and ideas, so that together we may find solutions to the debacle that has inexorably led towards 6 million unemployed.

May Day 2012

Most of the Sections of the IWA participating in May Day this year in one form or another. May Day demonstrations were organized in numerous cities around the world. These are just a sample of a few of these actions.

Anarcho-syndicalist May Day Rally in Moscow

On May 1, 2012 the Russian section of the IWA and other anarchists and social activists held a rally in Moscow and the monument to the revolutionaries of 1905-1907.

The anarcho-syndicalists decided not to participate in the so-called "Left March" together with different Stalinist and Leninist groups – in opposition to a number of other Moscow anarchists. The anarcho-syndicalists turned out to be absolutely right, even just because among the speakers at the pseudoleft rally were such nationalist leaders like Limonov and Delyagin, and at the event, without any interference from the organizers, far-right literature was being sold.

Considering that quality, in the given case, was definitely better than a unprincipled quantity, and in complete resolve not to give up the day of struggle, resistance and solidarity of the workers of the world to the hands of party politicians of different sorts, the anarcho-syndicalists raised a banner with the slogan "Resistance – Self-Organization – Self-Management" and black and red and black flags. They spoke about the anarchist roots of the First of May and the most difficult social problems, about the attack of capital and the state on workers' rights, the destruction of generally accessible education and health care, about attempts to do away with the 8-hour working day (which was won though the blood of thousands of working people, starting with the Haymarket martyrs – workers – anarchists, tried and executed for May events in Chicago in 1886), about the violation of workers' rights in Russia and around the world, about the global attack of capital and the global resistance of the working class from Bolivia and Spain to Russia... There was a call to boycott the Evroset company, which fired a worker for trying to form an independent trade union.

Among the participants in the rally were teachers, medical workers, students and different workers.... The speakers called on people to carry out the daily struggle for human dignity, for the rights of people



in the workplace and in the community, for a new, free world without exploitation. The road to this goes through the self-organization of the workers – joined in free trade unions without professional functionaries, bosses and social partners.

The organizers of the rally considered it successful and thank the comrades who came to support it.

www.aitrus.info

Successful libertarian Mayday in Dresden

On May 1, 2012, there was a libertarian May Day demonstration in Dresden like in many other cities around the world. Around 100 people followed the call of Dresden's syndicate, which is part of the FAU-IWA and FdA IFA. The demonstration went through the city's Pieschen district, in which many precarious workers, jobless and members of the working class live.

The opening rally was held at 4 pm at Neustadt station. Here the organisers spoke about the demonstrator's claims, about the collectivisation of companies, free spaces and housing but also about free education. At the same time they criticized the criminalisation of spontaneous, political and solidary strikes and the ongoing repressions against the non-parliamentary opposition. They attacked the worsening of the urban housing market, cuts in social welfare and lack of possibilities to freely determine the shaping of Dresden.

Along Leipziger Street people spilled water on the police, which marched in front of the demonstration. Some moments later the demonstration reached Altpieschen. Here a FAU member from Freital spoke about reasons to organize oneself in the



FAU from a common perspective. The next gathering was meant to be held in front of a self-determined antifascist housing project named RM16. After a short greeting addressee of the house's occupants, a member of FAU Dresden reported about the development and weaknesses of centralised union, in particular of the DGB, and outlined possible counter conceptions. The third rally was held in front of a building at Liststreet 8, which had shortly been occupied in 2010. Here the speakers talked about the housing market's development in Dresden and its consequences for homeless and people with low income.

At the end of the demonstration a member of the FAU initiative Chemnitz introduced their new initiative in a touching speech in which he called for a solidary organisation of all areas of life. With a collection afterwards it was possible to finance all the costs (printings, rents, fuel) which the organizers had.

Directly after the demonstration there was an evaluation meeting at the syndicate's bureau in which one quarter of the demonstrators showed up. People were satisfied about the creativity of the demonstration.

May Day in Warsaw

On May 1 anarchists and anarchosyndicalists held a May Day march in Warsaw. During the march we spoke about the worsening situation of the working class: the widespread use of trash contracts, raising the retirement age and the capitalist attack on all that workers' had gained in the past hundred years. We criticized the mainstream unions, which compromise with the bosses and refuse to call strikes, even when faced with the most drastic of situations.

ZSP had banners with slogans like "Enough compromises" "the Class war continues" and "We don't want to die working" and gave out leaflets which criticized the pseudoleft, which was also marching on that day. In particular we condemned the neoliberal formation, RP, which incorporated some liberal lifestyle issues and poses as a left party, while voting to raise the retirement age. We also had pointed out before the demo how the nationalists try to take over May Day and infiltrate the working class movements.



Passing by streetside cafes which were open for business, we pointed out to the people at the tables that the staff there earn less per hour than the price of their lattes, and they not only have to work on May Day, but get no paid vacations at all.

The demo drew a lot of interest, both from passersby and from the media. Various people took part in the march. Besides the ZSP and the Anarchist Federation, there were a lot of individual anarchists, some people from the Indignant group, as well as different radical leftists who joined the only anticapitalist march on this day.

The CNT First of May

The CNT will not stay quiet in the light of the offensives against workers' rights, many of which were won through the union struggle over a century. The 1 of May is a celebration of this hard struggle, which cost four lives in 1887 but which raised awareness and international solidarity which continues until today.

Throughout the Spanish state, the CNT went on the streets to remember the spirit of Chicago of these years and to remember Spain at the beginning of the 20th century, when working only 8 hours a day was a dream (although not too far off), to remember those who perished and those who resisted. The CNT took to the streets to also gather strength to resist today.

From Galicia, where demonstrations were organized in 5 cities, some with other organizations, some only by CNT, to the Canary Islands where days of struggles were called in Tenerife and Gran Canaria, having nothing to do with a walk in the street. From Murcia where a dinner took place after going through the city accompanied by live music to Madrid where, because of its size, there were three demonstrations, one in the north, in the sierra another on the traditional route through the capital and the third in Alcorcón, where the CNT could be seen in the streets under a tide of red and black. We could also mention Toledo, Granada, Bilbao...

Despite being peaceful demonstrations, to commemorate, to make demands and fight, the state felt the need to instill fear and show itself. So the neighbours in Barcelona were stunned at the besieged city, with snipers on the rooftops and the streets taken over by the police. Two comrades were detained for hours. The CNT acted against the abduction of its militants, one detention for the mere fact of exercising ones rights, reminding them that we are not afraid.

On May first we remember and gather, but for the CNT, every day is May Day. Every day we remember where we came from and every day we affirm where we are going. To repeal the labour reform and to win, not to lose, more rights for workers. Towards a more just society, more participatory and free.

London Mayday 2012- Report back

The first of May is international workers day. A day where we commemorate the anarchists of Chicago who were convicted and executed after the Haymarket riot, a protest in 1886 over the 8 hour day.

This year Mayday started early for some of us; with a morning demo at the Shard in London, called by the Sparks rank and file group. This was in response to employers trying to block rank and file activists from even attending the on-going negotiations over the JIB agreement.

By midday we had joined others at Clerkenwell Green for the yearly Mayday march down to Trafalgar square. There was a solid radical workers block of several hundred from Solfed, the IWW, Occupy and others.

After, we headed off to central London where North and South London Solfed, supported by Occupy, had called a demo against workfare providers. We arrived at Bond Street at around 4pm under the watchful eyes of the TSG. The police were present in high numbers on the day and there were some arrests.

We marched along Oxford Street and back down to Covent Garden picketing shops and charities involved in workfare schemes along the way, including various branches of MacDonalds, Topshop, BHS, the Salvation Army, Holland and Barrett and others including Boots, Pizza Hut, Greggs and more.

The 300 strong demo was a vibrant mix of people, we had some colourful banners and props, some inventive chants and some music as we hit the streets. This combined with the bright sunshine put everyone in a pretty good mood, the demo was able to successfully shut down a number of Oxford Street stores associated with Workfare, some of which closed without a picket simply because they heard we were coming.

All in all the day was a success. It's important to remember that back in 1886 they were fighting for the 8 hour day; in most retail outlets and their supply chains this still doesn't exist well over a century later. Workers there work long shifts and long weeks often for low wages. Workfare adds insult to injury by making people do that for £65 a week and by driving down wages and peoples power at work even further. The campaign against it continues.

First of May in Parma



The local section of the USI-AIT, together with some other libertarian organizations, held a May Day demonstration in the city of Parma. According to the organizers, "Workers from different sectors, immigrants and students wanted to show that another type of union movement (militant and based in the class struggle) is not only possible, but necessary". About 600 people took part in the demonstration.

One group of immigrants participating in the demonstration also demanded the right to housing. One activist, a Tunisian immigrant, spoke about labour issues and related this to the right to decent housing.

There was mention of a recently squatted building, of the anti-TAV struggle and antifascism. The demonstration stopped to remember Antonio Cieri, participant in the antifascist barricades of Parma in 1922, killed during the Spanish Revolution.



Conference on the present and the future of immigration in Spain and Catalonia

On 1 June in the Auditorium of "Can Comas" (Pineda de Mar - Barcelona), a conference was held on current and future immigration from Spain and Catalonia, which addressed different aspects such as the situation of irregularity, renewals, long-term permits, and the problems faced by foreigners and their children. This conference was organized by the CNT Pineda de Mar.

At the opening of the conference, our colleague Miguel Muliterno made a brief presentation on our confederation and explained what the CNT is to the audience, who may belong to it, and who no. He also explained that any worker can join the union regardless of their political or religious beliefs, and that it rejects discrimination based on gender, physical appearance, race etc. He also commented briefly on our principles, tactics and goals, and on the anarchist philosophy on which it is based, and is the foundation of anarcho-syndicalism.

The conference was conducted by lawyers in the field, using media to make their papers clear.

First, the lawyer and expert on foreign children, explained the situation of immigrant children who came here alone, without family or papers, often in small boats and how they could help.

The next speaker emphasized the rights of foreigners (with or without papers), how they could claim their rights and assistance and other interesting topics such as issues of family reunification, employment contracts etc..

And finally, there was a great contribution focusing on health care issues, and problems immigrants may have due to social cuts in and housing problems.

Those who came had many questions, especially on the issue of health and related to administrative procedures. The lawyers answered all the questions with clarity and professionalism and thanked the attendees.

At the end of the conference there was a very interesting debate in which there was much participation and crucially, respect and tolerance.

We are pleased and happy with the participation, the work of lawyers and the interest in this conference, which was so important to hold due to the times and the injustices that these people are facing.

It was nice to do something so that other people-workers, students and the unemployed from other cultures could know their rights and it was very gratifying result.

The conference clarified the doubts of those attending and also helped to raise awareness here about the situation faced every day by immigrants and what they have to struggle with to integrate into our society.

If we can raise awareness to those who perhaps were not entirely clear and could help people who (unfortunately) did not know your rights yet, we are more than satisfied.

Thanks to the lawyers and thanks to the participants, without whom it would not have been possible.

Finally to end the conference, comrade Miguel spoke to explain the need for unity and organization to address the injustices. He also said that the CNT Pineda de Mar convenes a general meeting once a month, almost always the last Thursday of each month at Can Comas in which we have a comrade attorney, David, one of the speakers at the conference who helps with legal and labour advice for free to all workers and also specializes in immigration.



For more information on the IWA, see our website:
www.iwa-ait.org